(c) whether in the past other Indians were invited for such meetings if so, what are the names of the invitees, who attended the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Smt. K. Bedi, IG (Prisons) Delhi was invited to attend the National Prayer Breakfast Day of the United States of America on 3.2.94.

A Government servant is required to obtain prior permission before accepting hospitality extended by a foreign Government|Agency. Smt. Bedi an IPS officer, is governed by the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968. As per the instructions laid down in the Rules, offers to visit abroad addressed directly to any member of the service by the foreign Government|Agency should be rejected straightaways, to discourage the possibility of members of the Service falling a prey to allurements or inducements offered by external agencies.

जम्मू और काश्मीर में राजनीतिक प्रक्रिया का शुरू किया जाना

2912. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जम्मू और काश्मीर में राजनीतिक प्रक्रिया शुरू करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा की गयी कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ख) क्या उस कार्यवाही के परिणामस्वरूप स्थिति में परिवर्तन के कोई लक्षण दिखायी दे रहे हैं, यदि नहीं, तो वहां पर स्थिति को सामान्य बनाने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट) : (क) और (ख) हिंसा और बन्दूक का भय कम करने के उद्देश्य से उग्रवादियों पर दबाव बढ़ाने के अलावा, राज्य में राजनीतिक प्रक्रिया फिर से शुरू करने के लिये सरकार ने कई अन्य कार्य आरम्भ किये हैं । राजनीतिक तत्वों को पुन: सक्रिय बनाने; आर्थिक और विकासशील गतिविधियों को तेज करने तथा रोजगार के अवसर सृजित करने; मुख्य धारा में आने के लिये लोगों को आधारभूत स्तर पर प्रेरित करना; तथा; स्थानीय प्रशासन को सक्रिय बनाने; उत्तरदायित्व, जवाबदेही और सुस्पष्टता की भावना बढ़ाने और जनता और सरकार की दूरी पाटने के लिये लगातार प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं ।

यद्यपि, आतंकवादी हिंसा बड़े पैमाने पर होनी जारी रही है, फिर भी स्थिति और जनता के रूख में प्रत्यक्ष और गुणात्मक परिवर्तन हुआ है, जो कि, बिना सोचे-समझे की जा रही हिंसा से परेशान और भ्रमित हो गई प्रतीत होती है । सरकार का प्रयास स्थिति को स्थिर बनाये रखने का है, ताकि राज्य में लोक तांत्रिक सरकार की पुनर्बहाली के लिये शीघ्रातिशीघ्र माहौल तैयार किया जा सके ।

Supply of blue-tinted keepsene in the country

@2913. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Blue tinted Kerosene is being supplied from the Public Distribution System throughout the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce such Kerosene for supply, from Public Distribution System in the entire country?

@Previously Unstarred Questeion 1835, transferred from 7th March, 1994.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Blue Dye has been introduced to PDS Kerosene in order to visually distinguish it from kerosene marketed by Parallel marketeers and sold under parallel marketing system. To start with, 48 locations supplying about 70 per cent of total kerosene quantity in the country have been covered. The rest of the locations in the country are being covered in a phased manner.

Regularisation of casual workmen

2914. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any policy under which causal workmen can be regularised in a set period of time, if not, whether such policy is under consideration and the time framed fixed, if any; and

(b) whether Government are looking for abolishing the casual employment system in IOC and if so, what steps are being taken to implement the principle "Equal pay for equal work" and other statutory benefits like P.F., Bonus, LTC, Medical benefits etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) IOS is engaging casuals for unskilled jobs. IOC is meeting the statutory requirements with regard to payment of wages and providing ESI benefits. Ex-gratia payment according to the Bonus Act is made to the eligible casuals as they are not in regular employment of IOC. PF is not paid. LTC benefit is not granted as the same is payable to only regular employees.

Opening of New LPG agencies in Darjeeling

2915. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations/applications from the people of different areas in Darjeeling for opening new LPG agencies in view of the growing scarcity of fuel in those areas;

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take thereon; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time from various parts of the country including Darjeeling for opening of more LPG distributorships. As per present policy places having population of 20,000 and above are considered for setting up LPG distributorships in a phased manner subject to economic viability and product availability.

Supreme Court's order regarding contract labour in LPG plants of IOC at Shakurbasti

2916. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Supreme Court passed an order on 23rd March, 1987 to the effect that Contract Labour working in Shakurbasti LPG Plant of Indian Oil Corporation will be employed by the Indian Oil Corporation as regular employees;